



Central Intelligence Agency
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NOTE FOR: DDCI
FROM: D/PAO
Dick,

I told the DCI we would draft an op-ed piece for The New York Times, for his review.

This is a first cut. I'd appreciate your views. I plan to FAX it to the DCI next week while he's in Aspen.


STAT


Joe DeTrani

Att

cc: DDI
DDO
C/NIC

STAT

DCI/PAO/JDeTrani 

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Inside the main entrance at CIA headquarters -- opposite the stars chiseled in stone that represent Agency employees who gave their lives in service to our country -- there are, engraved into the wall, familiar words from John's gospel: "And Ye Shall Know the Truth, and the Truth Shall Make You Free."

To me, those words speak volumes about the work of intelligence and they encapsulate what I've tried to accomplish during these past four years that I have been privileged to serve as Director of Central Intelligence. Seeking the truth, then putting that truth into action has been my goal; in fact in May 1987, as I stood on the front steps at Langley and was sworn in as the 14th DCI, in front of President Reagan and Vice President Bush, I pledged that I would devote myself and commit the CIA to providing objective assessments to those who must make policy recommendations that define our present and shape our future.

Along with my colleagues at CIA, I have been able to keep that pledge. Together we are reshaping the Agency to face the challenges of this decade and beyond. Far from being stuck in some Cold War rut, the CIA has been making important changes in the way we do business that anticipate rather than merely respond to shifts in the global landscape.

Looking back over these past years, it is clear that intelligence crossed a threshold of sorts when we realized that

we could not view the future through a prism from the past. Even before the tumultuous events in Eastern Europe of 1989 I created the position of Deputy Director for Planning, whose responsibility it is to offer a corporate view -- a clear strategic vision -- of the key national security priorities we will face. During the intervening years, we learned something interesting: while a strategic plan is important, it is the process -- the way that we go about creating the plan -- that is of real, lasting value. We continue to call on the collective skills of our people to develop and refine our corporate vision of the future. Moreover, our exercise in strategic planning is especially valuable now as we work to match diminishing resources with intelligence priorities.

There are other structural changes we've been making to accommodate our vision of the future -- whether it is countering foreign intelligence services' insatiable demand for US technology, the scourge of international narcotics that weakens the very fiber of our nation, or the terrorist threat to Americans abroad. We created two new organizations -- the Counterintelligence Center and the Counternarcotics Center -- that utilize the special talents, collection capabilities and analytical skills of men and women from throughout the Intelligence and Law Enforcement Communities. These Centers join the Counterterrorism Center, already in existence, to form

a strong bulwark against future threats to our nation's security. Thanks to the cooperation of many people this approach is working.

While we are making plans for our future, we have not lost sight of the fact that the CIA cannot function without the trust and confidence of the American people. In my view, trust must be earned by performance and maintained by accountability.

I am extremely proud of our performance these past four years -- including our role in supporting our men and women who fought in the recent war in the Persian Gulf. President Bush has said that intelligence was critical to our success in the Gulf -- it helped shorten the war and saved American lives. Colin Powell put it this way: "No Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, and no field commander in American history ever had better support leading up to battle, on the eve of battle, and during battle."

Intelligence has played -- and will continue to play -- a vital role in other areas too. I am especially proud of our support to policymakers during nearly all phases of the recently concluded START Agreement, and our efforts that led to the unveiling of Saddam Hussein's clandestine nuclear, biological and chemical weapons programs.

I am also proud of the CIA's record of accountability to the American people and their surrogates in the Congress. We

provide Congress with over 1,000 briefings annually on every conceivable topic and we have good working relations with our intelligence oversight committees. We have rejected publicly the recent reckless allegations that CIA shipped arms to Iraq or that CIA was involved in a "black network" of BCCI -- allegations that are utterly baseless and without merit. We report fully to the intelligence committees on any such charges, and we remain committed to being completely accountable to the American people.

As I leave my position as Director of Central Intelligence, I am confident the CIA is well positioned for the future, and that we have earned the trust and confidence of the American people.

I also leave confident in the knowledge that the President's choice to succeed me is far-and-away the best qualified person to lead the Intelligence Community forward. I worked closely with Bob Gates for the two years that he served as my Deputy and I know him as a man of integrity, character and extraordinary competence. He will bring enormous dedication and ability to the Office of Director of Central Intelligence and he is the right person to carry through with the changes to Intelligence that the times demand, and that we demand of ourselves.